

DETROIT BLACK FARMER LAND FUND  
- ANNUAL REVIEW -

# LIVING LEGACY

JUNETEENTH 2020-2022



# DETROIT BLACK FARMER LAND FUND



Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund  
*Since Juneteenth 2020*

We - the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN), Keep Growing Detroit, and Oakland Avenue Urban Farm - are 3 long standing Detroit urban farming organizations. On Juneteenth 2020 our years of food sovereignty and land security work culminated in the creation of the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund.

Through our Co-Founders, 4 Black women agriculturalists committed to right relationship with land, our lead co-conspirator and YOU, **we are closing the unresolved wealth gap impacting Detroit Black Farmers' ability to purchase vacant land in one of America's Blackest cities.** We honorably steward this transformation by supporting Detroit Black Farmers with land acquisition, farm support, infrastructure and equipment readiness, and building food sovereignty in community.

We ground in the historical plight of our ancestors and elders who faced an all together different form of land insecurity. Thousands of Black farmers lost their land in the pursuit of continued survival. As that intergenerational trauma persists, we still fight for our shared legacy of intergenerational Black farmland ownership. From 15% of farmers in the 1910s to a mere 1% now; from our gentrifying neighborhoods and in the face of speculative development, **we are smashing the narrative that the "best use" of vacant land is based on financial worth alone.**

The Detroit Black Farmers are our annual awardees. From expanding their farms and gardens to combat blight, providing produce, meals and knowledge to their neighbors, and courageously growing on land despite being unable to afford it, they lead the charge towards an abundant ecosystem rooted in land security, local produce, food sovereignty and community care.

We are, the Detroit Black Farmer, and we are, the Detroit Black Farmer Land Fund.



# WHY THE DETROIT BLACK FARMER LAND FUND?

Just 3 years in and over 10 acres of urban farmland later, Detroit Black Farmer is repairing our vacant city landscape.

Owning urban farmland is just the first step in stewarding it and the fund reflects that. As we granted case by case requests from awardees for rain catchment, irrigation, heavyweight tools and more, we made funds available specifically to support these related farmland costs. They are essential to ensure continued growth and success on our path to food sovereignty.

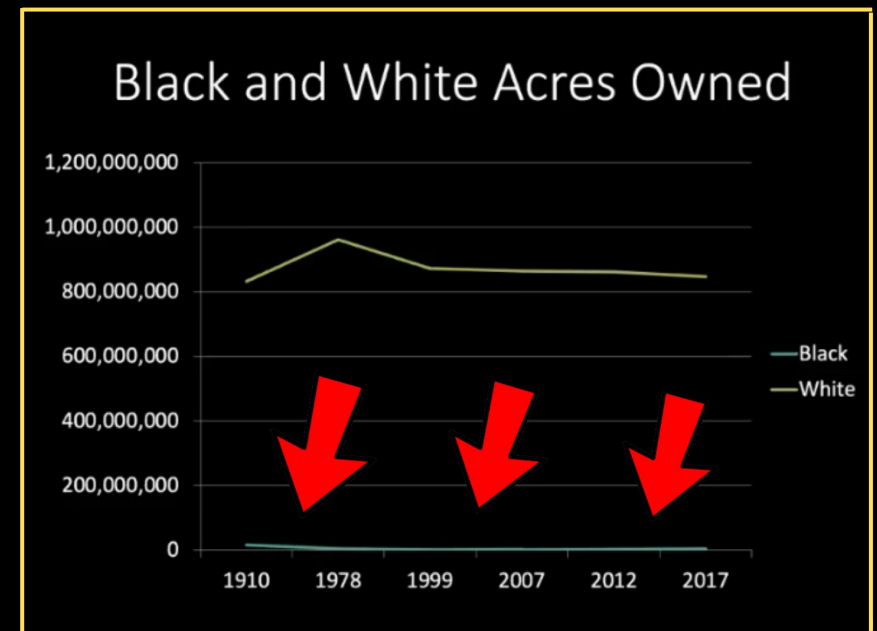
This journey to food sovereignty is interconnected, as are we. Building community for us looks like **Work N' Chills** at awardee farms! Promoting collective land stewardship and strengthening bonds directly impacts our projects - and, gives us a chance to just chill. It also looks like cooperative work, such as stewarding the development of a **grower co-op** of awardees, who are aggregating collard greens and tomatoes to market to select Detroit distributors with expansion coming next year. It also looks like **Restorative Economics**, and the growing web of supporters, small businesses and organizations creatively working to support the fund financially.

We know that the legacy of intergenerational Black farmland ownership, that we hold, is heavy. It is why we hold it with such care.

But we know too that many hands make light work.

Thank you - our nation of grassroots supporters - who believed, like us, that WE can support, create, fund and sustain, the Detroit that we want and deserve.

Keep supporting, keep sharing and keep uplifting our to balance the inequities we have all witnessed here in Detroit. **We can MAKE this change - together.**



**DETROIT  
BLACK  
FARMER  
LAND  
FUND**

**979 TOTAL DONORS**

**THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY RAISED  
THE CAPITAL TO GROW THE FUND**

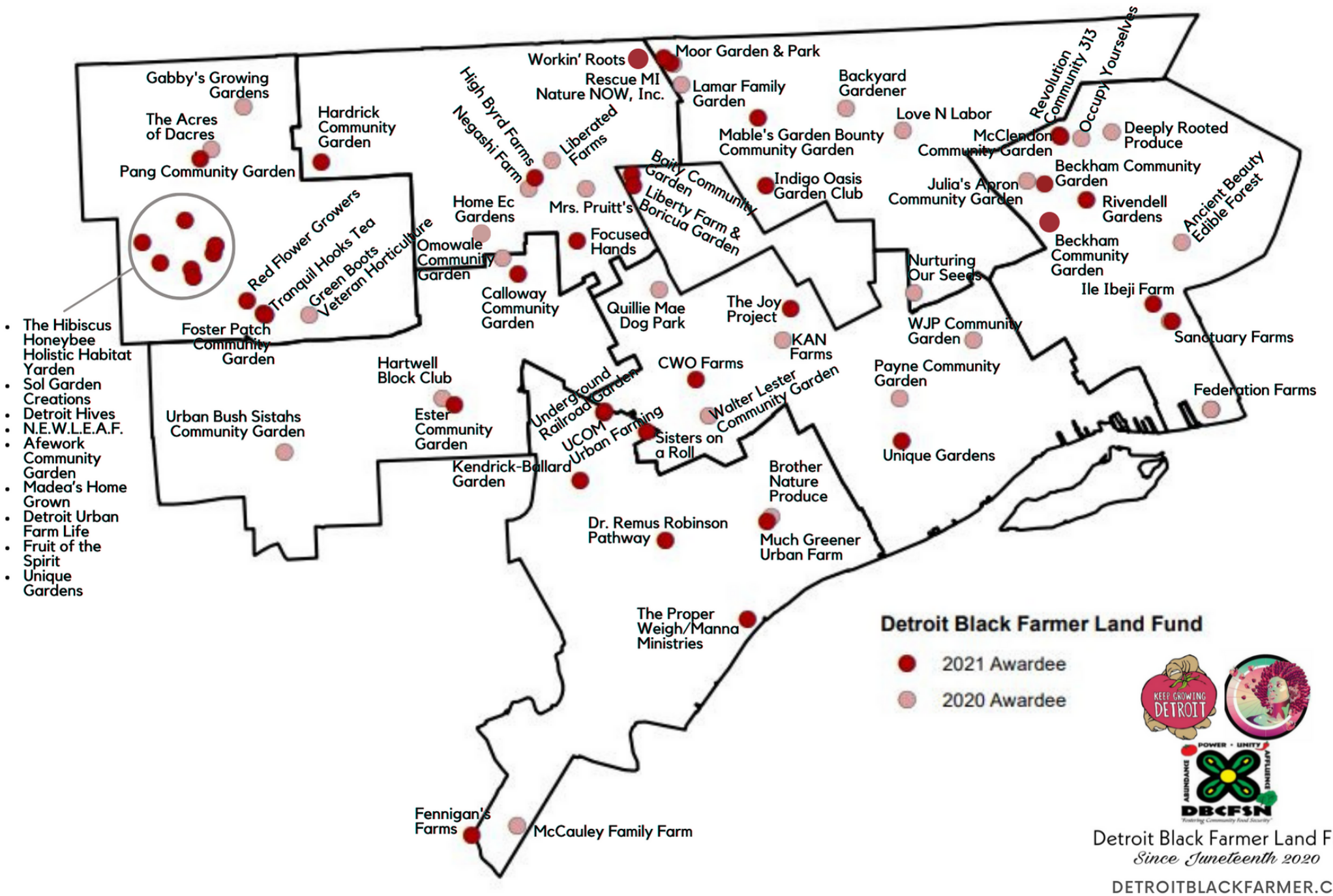
**DETROIT  
BLACK  
FARMER  
LAND  
FUND**



**103 APPLICANTS**

**ALL BLACK FARMERS & CHANGEMAKERS  
WHO SOUGHT TO OWN THE LANDS  
THEY'VE TENDED OR COMPLETE  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

# 2020 + 2021 DETROIT BLACK FARMER LAND FUND AWARDEES



# 70 BLACK FARMERS

**AWARDED & SUPPORTED**

**THROUGH THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING  
 LAND IN THEIR NAME OR COMPLETING  
 INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

# **BLACK LAND OWNERSHIP**

**THIS YEAR AWARDEES RECEIVED FUNDS TO PURCHASE LAND IN DETROIT AND/OR COMPLETE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS TO EXPAND THEIR FARMS/GARDENS.**

**29**

**AWARDEES NOW OWN THEIR LAND AND/OR COMPLETED THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

**10.4**

**ACRES OF LAND PURCHASED BY AWARDEES**



**DETROIT  
BLACK  
FARMER  
LAND  
FUND**

**30 AWARDEES**

**NUMBER OF BLACK FARMERS IN DETROIT  
WE HOPE TO AWARD & SUPPORT  
IN 2022-2023**





# **WAYS TO SUPPORT**

- **MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION!**
- **DONATE GENTLY USED EQUIPMENT TO BLACK FARMERS!**
- **VOLUNTEER YOUR SERVICES & TIME TO BLACK FARMS!**
- **DONATE LAND!**





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